



REPLY TO THE
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
UNITED STATES SOUTHERN COMMAND
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER
3511 NW 91ST AVENUE
MIAMI, FL 33172-1217

July 4, 2005

Commander


To the Men and Women of the United States Southern Command:

Each year on Independence Day we celebrate the founding of our nation and honor the millions of American servicemen and women whose dedication and sacrifice have preserved our peace and liberty for more than two centuries. From the War of Independence to the War on Terrorism, United States history has been graced and shaped by courageous military personnel who have defended the democratic principles upon which our nation was founded.

Today, the men and women of the United States Southern Command continue the proud tradition of military service in the name of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Your efforts help to strengthen democratic institutions, reduce transnational threats and promote cooperation among the people of our hemisphere. The freedom won by our forefathers is not only our gift to our children, but also our hope for partner nations of this hemisphere and around the globe.

On this Independence Day, I salute the United States Southern Command's military and civilian personnel and wish you all a safe and happy holiday.

Sincerely,


Bantz J. Craddock
General, US Army
Commander